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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Preparations for Maneuvers

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1. For some weeks intense activity has been observed in the Bulgarian Defense Ministry in Sofia, as preparations are being made for the approaching military maneuvers. The preparations are under the direct control of Soviet military experts.
2. Information just received indicates that one zone of maneuver will be the Khaskovo sector of the frontier. This information seems to be confirmed by the fact that the 2nd Infantry Division is now in this sector, while motorized and infantry units are beginning to concentrate on it. Troops permanently garrisoned at Nova Zagora, Jamboli, Harmanli, and Simeonovgrad are also on the move into the area. Strategic attention seems to be centering especially on the Svilengrad Edirne /Turkey/ section of the Bulgar-Turkish frontier. "Extraordinary measures," not otherwise specified, are reported from this sector.
3. Units are also concentrating on the Yugoslav frontier, apparently for other maneuvers. Compared with the other two frontiers, the Greco-Bulgar frontier shows few signs of activity.
4. One problem that is to be worked out will be the practical application of Soviet methods of waging war. Another will be practical trials of the new weapons assigned to the Bulgarian Army. New cadres of officers are to be formed who will later be sent to the different garrisons to instruct troops in handling these new arms.
5. Soviet bases now extend throughout the entire southeastern arc of Bulgaria.

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